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ABSTRACT

This paper presents a historical account of the Myron T. Herrick Memorial Library (Wellington, Ohio) created by collocation of the majority of documented information from the 1840s to the 1990s. Information was primarily taken from written sources such as monographs, papers, essays, letters, statistical reports, and meeting notes, though some information from informal conversations was included. There are gaps in the timeline, due to the lack of written sources concerning the library during the pre-civil war era. Topics discussed include Myron T. Herrick's donation of funds for a new public library; Herrick's visit to Wellington; Herrick's second gift, a bequeathal of funds for an addition and upkeep; the dedication of the addition; re-cataloging; finding a head librarian; trying times and renovations from the 1960s through the 1980s; and the library today. (Contains 68 references.) (DLS)

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THE HERRICK MEMORIAL LIBRARY:
AN HISTORICAL STUDY

A Master's Research Paper submitted to the
Kent State University School of Library
and Information Science
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree Master of Library Science

by

Tracie Marie Dalton

July, 1998

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In "Herrick Memorial Library: An Historical Study," an attempt is made to collocate the majority of documented information on the Myron T. Herrick Memorial Library from its humble beginning in the 1840s to today. The library began as a collection of books housed in a general store where users could borrow books whenever they liked, for as long as they liked. In 1873 a subscription library was started, governed by the Wellington Library Association. This library was housed in a room over a bank in town, appropriately named The Library Room. Patrons were required to pay a fee for the privilege of borrowing books from this library, which was first maintained by Miss Ella Wadsworth, Wellington's first librarian on record. In 1886 The Library Room was given to the Wellington Township to govern and maintain, and was moved to the Town Hall. The library remained there until 1902, when Myron T. Herrick, for whom the library is named, donated \$20,000 for the construction of a new library building. Herrick also bequeathed \$70,000 more in 1929 for an addition to the building. The library has since grown considerably both in size and technology, containing now over 33,000 volumes, and providing online catalogs and Internet access to the public. Herrick Memorial Library is one of the cornerstones of the Wellington community, and will surely enjoy prosperity for years to come.

Master's Research Paper by

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B.A., Cleveland State University, 1997

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I. INTRODUCTION

The first circulating library in the Village of Wellington is believed to have been housed in two drawers of a desk located on the second floor of a general store, sometime around 1840. The store was in the business district of town on West Main Street, and was owned by John Reed. In her 1922 paper on the history of Wellington, W.B. Vischer briefly describes the first library in this way: "There was no librarian, no fee, no record, no fines, no time limit. All you had to do was go to the store, open the drawers, help your self, and bring back the book when the spirit moved you. This was the Wellington Public Library in embryo" (Vischer 1922, 9).

There seems to exist only a few pieces of written material on the earliest years of the library. I was fortunate enough to find a few short papers and a two page chapter in a book to provide me with a sketchy outline of the library's history, and these were not discovered in a library, but in the closet of a Wellington citizen's home, worn and yellowed with age. One of the short papers is entitled, "History of Wellington," written by Mrs. W.B. Vischer in 1922. In it there is almost one page devoted to the history of Wellington's library. The other source is a monograph entitled "Historic Wellington Then and Now," by Ernst L. Henes, in which a short chapter of about a page is furnished on Wellington library's history. The only piece of information I was able to recover directly from the Myron T. Herrick Memorial Library on its own history was a three page conference paper written by the current director, Patricia Lindley. This paper, however, was not cataloged for public access, but was kindly offered to me for my research. It follows then no one piece of literature on the history of Wellington's library is available to the public. What most concerns this researcher is that it has been nearly been 150

years since the library first began "in embryo," and those worn and tattered papers and books which briefly describe the library's history may soon be lost without more recently written literature serving to preserve it.

Purpose of the Study

My purpose for writing this research paper is, before all else, to collocate the bits and pieces of information still in existence on the history of the Myron T. Herrick Memorial Library. This information will primarily include written sources, though information from some informal conversations will also be included. It is my hope that I am able to uncover information in the form of various written primary sources on the library's past. I will then bring all of this "new" information together in order to provide the community with a well-researched, historical document.

Wellington's library has been a source of pride for the village ever since it was no more than a small collection of books in a general store. It has served as a place for learning for the community of now over 4,500 citizens for some 150 years. Its growth has been steady, as the number of volumes in May of 1885 was 1,812 (WLA Meeting Notes May 1885, 54) and, in May of 1998, was well over 33,000, including audio visual materials, art prints, games, toys, and computer software (Welcome to HML Pamphlet 1998). Before the library reaches yet another prosperous century, we must take pause and look back on where, and when, and how the library got started and grew to the size and importance it has today in its community.

Definition of Terms

Community:

The term "community" is defined in the Merriam-Webster's Dictionary as "a body of people living in the same place under the same laws." However the term community is used in this study to mean much more. "Community" in this paper is used with the understanding that there is a common bond that stems beyond geography and laws, and includes a shared sense of interest, and pride in shared accomplishments.

Information:

Information in this study means anything written down or told orally about the library. This "information" may be in the form of monographs, papers, essays, letters, statistical reports, meeting notes, or informal conversations.

Limitations

This study is limited to the history of the Myron T. Herrick Memorial Library of Wellington, Ohio. It is not intended to represent a thorough history of the Village of Wellington, or the history of Lorain County. It is also not intended to be a biographical source for the life of Myron T. Herrick, other than in those ways he was associated with the library.

This historical study may not be a complete history of the library. Because of the lack of written sources concerning the library during its pre civil war era, there will likely be gaps in the timeline of this paper.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The building which now houses the Myron T. Herrick Memorial Library was dedicated to the village of Wellington in 1904, two years after Governor-elect Myron T. Herrick offered the Wellington library and township trustees a \$20,000 grant to build a library in memory of his parents (Vischer, 1922). Twenty five years later in 1929, Herrick bequeathed seventy thousand more for an addition in memory of his grandson (Enterprise [Wellington] 25 April 1929). Grants from individuals have played a significant role in the development and improvement of many libraries in the United States, the impact of such money made evident in the professional literature.

In Sketches of Ohio Libraries, compiled by C.B. Galbreath who was the State Librarian in 1902, a number of Ohio libraries are illustrated that were founded or improved by a generous individual. The first of these in Galbraith's book is the Cadiz Public Library, originating in 1880. Mrs. Nancy Dewey is held chiefly responsible for the library's creation after she proposed to contribute \$1,000 to the cause. This monetary gift gave way to much enthusiasm, and soon enough money was raised, and a small tax was imposed, for the library to take shape (Galbraith 1902, 87).

In Delaware, Ohio, at the Ohio Wesleyan University, a Mr. Sturges of Zanesville offered to give \$10,000 of his money to be used for the purchase of books if the Church would build a library costing \$15,000. Though the university was new, and struggling at that time to meet its bare necessities, the offer by Sturges was enough encouragement to establish a library only three years later, in 1856 (Galbraith 1902, 182).

In the city of East Liverpool, the public library was erected due greatly in part to the way many libraries around the country founded their libraries: the philanthropy of Andrew Carnegie. Mr. G.Y. Travis, an attorney from East Liverpool, wrote to Carnegie in 1899, asking for assistance, and was offered \$50,000 on the condition that the town provide the site and \$3,000 to maintain the library (Galbreath 1902, 186).

On the 10th of July, 1873 in Fremont, Ohio, the city council received a memorandum which stated that \$50,000 in money and land was being set aside by Mr. Sardis Birchfield for the creation of a library. On January 29, 1874, the library inherited the \$50,000, and a library to serve the citizens of Fremont and Sandusky country was thus erected (Galbreath 1902, 188).

The city of Massillon found itself with the great generosity of two individuals, the first of whom was Mr. George Harsh, who left \$10,000 after his death in the spring of 1897 to use for the creation of a library. After this gift was made known, Mr. J.W. McClymonds gave \$20,000 to be held in trust as an endowment fund for the library (Galbreath 1902, 221).

The Marietta College Library, founded with the beginning of the college itself in 1835, contained an impressive 3,000 volumes, many of which were purchased in Europe by a professor of languages. These volumes from overseas were acquired with \$1,000 from the estate from a local, hardworking farmer, Mr. Samuel Stone (Galbraith 1902, 224).

Oberlin College was established in 1833, and soon after an attempt was made to also establish a library. Thousands of volumes were collected through donations, and in 1885 Mr. Charles V. Spear of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, gave the Library the Relief L. Holbrook Fund of \$11,000 to be used for the purchase of books. Spear also donated a building with a large reading room and much room for storing books (Galbraith 1902, 230).

The Brumback County Library, located in Van Wert County, was founded through the philanthropic generosity of John Stanford Brumback, whose estate granted Van Wert County nearly \$50,000 to establish a library. The money was used to erect a building and purchase 1,500 volumes before any tax payer's money was spent (Galbreath 1902, 265).

It was Mr. C.S. Braggs who deserves to be remembered for the establishment of the Wooster University Library, in Wooster, Ohio. His gift of \$5,000 in 1870 was given for the purchase of books, which were selected by the faculty. "For this reason," Galbreath says, "the University has had from the beginning a good working library..." (Galbreath 1902, 282).

Some of the top private foundations in this decade which support libraries, each awarding more than \$1.7 million dollars in 1993, include: The E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, which focuses primarily east of the Mississippi River and Virginia; the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation, supporting nonprofit organizations in Michigan; the Kelvin and Eleanor Smith Foundation of the Greater Cleveland area; the Kresge Foundation in Michigan; the W.K. Kellogg Foundation based in Battle Creek, Michigan; and the Pittsburgh Foundation, which has its support primarily based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (St. Lifer and Rogers 1996, 17).

Another top grant giver is the Viburnum Foundation, Inc. The combined efforts of Viburnum and the ALA helped to promote successful literacy in six rural Louisiana libraries beginning in 1993. Each library received a \$3,000 grant to participate in the Viburnum/ALA Family Literacy Project in an effort to establish library-based literacy programs in their communities. The program consists of project team members including librarians and the literacy provider, which could be a community agency. Viburnum specifically wished for the grants to

be used in rural areas where the percentage of illiteracy, especially in the southern region of the United States, is high (Sullivan 1988, 778).

Frito-Lay set an example of generous corporate philanthropy by initiating the company's first public service project of building a library in the children's wing of Plano Children's Hospital (Davis 1985, 21). The announcement was made in September, 1983 that the company was to provide the resources to create a children's learning center, and soon after the Plano Public Library volunteered its expertise, agreeing to select, order and process all the materials for the library, which included 1,000 books, tapes, records, cassettes, computers and educational games. The learning center was dedicated six months later in March of 1984.

In Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the Miller Brewing Company donated \$150,000 to the Milwaukee Public Library to finance a reading room program created to increase the library's multicultural book collection and promote literacy (St. Lifer and Rogers 1993, 28). The lucrative partnership also helped to create writing workshops, school and university programs, and various community activities for the library.

Grants have been, since the inception of libraries, of magnificent assistance, and have served to create new libraries as well as keep the already-established libraries, continuing. However grants are not always the only answer to a librarian's prayer for financial assistance. Private gifts have also played a large role, and continue to do so.

In August 1994, the Kenosha Public Library in Wisconsin experienced its own version of hitting the jackpot when it inherited an unexpected \$500,000 from a resident who died in November, 1993 (St. Lifer and Rogers 1994, 25). This was the largest bequest ever to the library. More interesting still is that the late Dorthy V. Walters, who left the large sum to the

library, had no discernible connection to Kenosha's public library (St. Lifer and Rodgers, 1994). The money came with no stipulations as to how it was to be used; therefore the library devised its own plan. It was decided that the majority of it was to be used for the restoration of the historic library building, while the rest was to be used to improve its automation system.

A gift greatly needed by a public library was realized in Great Falls, Montana. It was known that native Dorthy Lampen Thompson was bequesting part of her lucrative estate to the the Great Falls public library, believed to be in the neighborhood of \$100,000. This was a financial boost which was very needed, as the library was unable to even keep hours on Mondays because of a shortage of operating funds. It was not long after the library learned of its gift, however, that it was realized the sum was not \$100,000, but in excess of one million dollars (St. Lifer and Rogers 1996, 17). The gift was restricted to the purchase of nonfiction books in honor of Thompson's parents, as well as to sponsor cultural events. It is believed that this is the largest gift ever recieved by a public library in Montana.

An unusual way of donating money to a university library was proposed at the University of Nevada, Reno in 1993 (St. Lifer and Rogers 1993, 28). Athletic director of the university, Chris Ault, pledged that for each win by the university's basketball team, he would donate \$1000 for the purchase of books.

The Toledo Lucas County Public Library inherited \$200,000 through its Library Legacy Foundation in 1993. The sum was given by the former Toledo County Public Library Director Dorthy Strouse (St. Lifer and Rogers 1993, 23). The money was specifically to be used to support the library's special services such as book mobiles, access by senior citizens and the homebound, and educational support for the Toledo County Public Library's nonlibrarian staff.

James A. Michener pledged a total of \$1,000,000 to the library of the University of Northern Colorado, the last \$400,000 of which was given in 1993 (Goldberg 1993, 1002). The library, which already bears his name, will use the proceeds to enhance the library's Mari Michener Art Gallery.

Friends of the Metropolitan Library System in Oklahoma City awarded its member libraries \$43,780 in 1994 for the purchase of materials and to sponsor a number of projects (St. Lifer and Rogers 1994, 126). Part of the gift was specifically set aside for computers, travel, language instruction, and adult and YA fiction.

Award-winning picture book illustrator Barbara Cooney recently gave a gift of \$550,000 to the Damariscot, Maine's Skidompha Public Library, saving it from deterioration (Olson 1998, 22). The size of this gift from Clooney will allow for the library, currently housed in an 1802 clapboard house, to expand in size, and become automated. In exchange for the \$550,000, the residents of Damariscot must match it to at least \$250,000.

The largest gift given to libraries in recent history comes from the Gates Library Foundation. Microsoft Corporation's Bill Gates planned in 1997 to award \$200 million dollars in cash, training and equipment over the next five years to struggling libraries in the United States and Canada (St. Lifer and Rogers 1997, 14). The Foundation's grants are divided into three types which can be received: Statewide Library Partnership, which places library science interns in small public libraries to help with technical needs and training centers; Urban Library Leadership Grants, which serve to assure computer access in needy public libraries; and Opportunity Grants, which provide training and support in small independent libraries.

III. METHODOLOGY

Historical Methodology was used in this study to produce a thorough historical research paper on the Myron T. Herrick Memorial Library of Wellington, Ohio. The foudation of the research was based on the study of written documentation such as minutes of meetings, official correspondences, and annual reports of the Herrick Memorial Library, the history of Wellington, and the life of Myron T. Herrick. Documentation included, but was not limited to: conference papers, essays, annual reports of the library, library meeting notes, library circualtion statistics, newspaper clippings from the Wellington Enterprise (Wellington's weekly newspaper), letters, and informal conversations. The history of Wellington was primarily gained through the Enterprise , and papers written by citizens (of the past and present). Information of the life of Myron T. Herrick was obtained through articles written in the Enterprise.

IV. HISTORY OF THE HERRICK MEMORIAL LIBRARY

IN THE BEGINNING

Variations on the story of the first public library in Wellington can be found in at least two short papers written on its history. Mrs. W.B. Vischer shares her account in History of Wellington, an essay written on the Wellington Library's history. Vischer writes that "the very first library antedates any printed history with which we are acquainted" (Vischer 1922, 9). She describes the first "real" library as, specifically, two drawers of books on the second floor of a shoe store on West Main Street, the owner of which is long forgotten. There were no guidelines for its users. "All you had to do was go to the store...help yourself, and bring back the book when the spirit moved you" (Vischer 1922, 9).

A similar creation story is given for the Wellington Library by current director Patricia Lindley. Lindley writes in "Herrick Memorial Library," a conference paper on the library's history, that there was a library as early as 1840, which was a private joint stock company. The library consisted of about two shelves of books, and was housed on the second floor of John Reed's general store on West Main Street, now Herrick Avenue. This library was closed in 1863, and for ten years a man named James Austin lent out books for a small fee from his fiction library, where his daughter Fanny was the acting librarian (Lindley 1996, 1). Interestingly, Vischer states in her account that there was not a library of "any sort" from 1863 to 1873. (Vischer 1922, 9) However, no matter who is correct about this ten year gap, no one can dispute the formation of Wellington's first organized subscription library in April of 1873, the first meeting of which was held in the Town Hall on April 18 (WLA Meeting Notes April 1873, 1).

An announcement for the library stockholders meeting was even printed in the town's Wellington Enterprise the day before, on April 17, which told of the Friday meeting at 7pm (Enterprise [Wellington] 17 April, 1873). Honorable Sidney S. Warner was appointed Chairman of the organization, Noah Huckins was appointed Secretary, and Leo Couch, Assistant Secretary. The first passed motion of the first meeting was written in this way: "This meeting organized itself into a literary association to be called the Wellington Library Association." The second motion of the meeting was passed to appoint a committee of five to prepare a constitution, and another was passed to appoint a committee of five to collect subscriptions from citizens (WLA Meeting Notes April 1873, 1).

By the third meeting of the WLA, bylaws were passed and ready to be applied to the newly formed subscription library. These are paraphrased as follows: The library shall be open 6 to 9pm and every other day except Sunday from 1-4 pm; no more than two books for each member who has paid their dues; every member is responsible for injury to all books drawn on his or her name; books may be borrowed for two weeks; any person taking a book from the library without having it signed by the librarian will be fined one dollar; overdues are five cents a day per book; no person can borrow books while fines are owed; no books marked in the catalog as reference may be taken unless permission is obtained from the librarian; books of recent purchase are "seven days" books, and cannot be renewed; no smoking, spitting, or loud conversation allowed; any person violating rules of the library may be temporarily suspended by the librarian (WLA Meeting Notes May 1873, 13-14).

The Wellington Library Association acquired rooms above the bank in town to lease for its subscription library on Friday, May 23, 1873. The rent was fifty dollars a year, and the lease

began on June 1, 1873 (WLA Meeting Notes May 1873, 19). From there on out the meetings were held in the "Library Room," not the Town Hall.

On September 12, 1873, a motion was passed that no person should have access to the Library Room except a "[bonne] fide" shareholder, trustee, someone invited by a shareholder, or the librarian (WLA Meeting Notes September 1873, 21).

The first librarian for the Library Room was Miss Ella Wadsworth. Evidence of Miss Wadsworth's work can be first read about in the Tuesday, July 17, 1873 edition of the Wellington Enterprise. The article reads, in part, "...the job of covering the books with paper before they go out is a larger one than anticipated. However, the librarian, Miss Ella Wadsworth, is busily engaged completing the work" (WLA Meeting Notes September 1873, 21). Miss Wadsworth first appeared in the Meeting Notes on October 1, 1873, where she reported some basic statistics for September. According to Miss Wadsworth, 771 books were checked out, and six dollars and fifteen cents worth of fines were collected.

The meetings continued and the Library Association's Library Room above the bank seemed to prosper.

On May 19, 1874, Miss Wadsworth reported the number of books in the library at 1157, with 8869 drawn for the year, and \$39.40 in fines was collected in the first year of service (WLA Meeting Notes May 1874, 24). Interestingly, soon after this report, fines were increased to ten cents a day, the same as they are today in 1998. Also, tighter restrictions were imposed on how the library was to be used. Only persons who wished to borrow or return books or read quietly were allowed. All loud conversations and gatherings were strictly prohibited (WLA Meeting Notes June 1874, 27).

In July of 1874 a committee which was appointed to find a new librarian was taking proposals for the job. Though Ella Wadsworth, current librarian then, proposed to continue her job for one hundred dollars a year, Edward and Ida Van Cleef proposed to do the job for seventy five dollars a year, so they got the job instead (WLA Meeting Notes July 1874, 29). In June of 1875 proposals were taken again for the job. Miss J.S. Jones offered to be librarian for seventy dollars a year. Miss S. Seeley offered her services for ninety dollars a year. Of course, Miss Jones got the job (WLA Meeting Notes June 1875, 33).

As the Wellington Library Association continued toward the 1900s, meeting notes became shorter and less precise, and meetings were not held as often. More concern seemed to be placed on politics within the association than on the actual governing of a library for its paying patrons. In May of 1885, the yearly statistics told of low borrowing numbers, only 4,584 books borrowed compared to over 8,000 the first year of operation. Moreover, there were 1,812 books in the library, and 102 needed to be rebound. The librarian reported 1,500 books in at least good condition, the rest of which needed repairs (WLA Meeting Notes May 1885, 54).

The last documented meeting of the Wellington Library Association was on May 29, 1885, where long time board secretary J.H. Dickson resigned, and the Librarian was appointed as Secretary. There was no evidence in the meeting notes that this was to be the last documented meeting. In 1885 the trustees had begun to talk about giving the library to the Wellington Township, and on February 27, 1886 they did just that. The Enterprise addresses the change of ownership in the February 17, 1886 edition, reporting that it has been thought for some time that the village library should be taken over by the township, for under the arrangement of the stock company there was not enough income for daily operations. The only revenues the Library

Room had to operate on came from fines (which explains the earlier increase from five to ten cents), and the selling of tickets (shares so individuals could use it). If the township took it over, the library could be relieved from its financial embarrassment, and could then be placed in the town hall (Enterprise [Wellington] 17 February 1886). Though the stockholders were willing to give the library over, there was an obstacle in the way of the plan. Village and township officials wanted for the library to belong to the township and not only the village. However the law only provided for a township library if it had a village of not over one thousand inhabitants. When the population of a village exceeded one thousand inhabitants, there was no provision to allow for it to unite with the township for a library. Thus it was not possible to have a village library where the township could also have the benefit, except by a special act of legislation. This was critical to get in order at once before legislature adjourned. Fortunately, with much help from the Honorable J.T. Haskell, the legislature did indeed pass a bill which authorized the township trustees to maintain the library (Enterprise [Wellington] 17 February 1886).

There is a gap in the meeting notes from February, 1886, when the township first took over, to 1902 when Herrick came on the scene, and the Enterprise unfortunately does not mention the library often in its issues at this time. One thing we do know about this time is that Miss Julia Rodhouse was librarian during most of this span of time, from 1886 to 1892 (Morse, 1967). We also know, of course, that the township was in charge of the library, with library trustees Samuel Laudon, Charles Horr, and R.H. Kinnison, if the same trustees of the WLA stayed on when the library transferred hands of ownership. Moreover, we know of a borrower rule which came into effect in 1895, which the Enterprise reported on. It was resolved at a library trustees meeting in December 1894, that thereafter anyone eligible to check out books by

being a taxpayer or a ticket holder (still allowing perscribers of the WLA library to use the library if they are not a taxpayer) could not check out a book through a second party except with written permission from that person. Also, if a person held a ticket and wished to give it to another person because the holder was leaving town, notification of this must have been given to the librarian (Enterprise [Wellington] 26 December 1894). These rules took effect the first of January, 1895.

THE GIFT

In the latter part of 1901 the village of Wellington was "buzzing" with the exciting news of gaining a whole new library building. Governor-elect Myron T. Herrick generously offered the village of Wellington the funds needed for a new public library. Herrick, more specifically, offered the township trustees twenty thousand dollars to buy a site and erect a building. What no one probably anticipated, however, was the trouble that would accompany the task of picking out a site. There were three men on the committee to find a site, S.K. Laundon (chairman), E. F. Webster, and R.H. Kinnison, and all three had a different site in mind. One possibility was to build it in the town park, and they brought this idea to the village council with a petition for the matter to be brought to a vote of the people (Enterprise [Wellington] 6 November 1901). The three men declared that they were anxious to agree on a site, though so many different opinions had been expressed, that they hoped a vote of the people would expediate an agreement. However, the village council was not sure of the legal issues involving using the park as the future library site, so a commitee was organized to investigate the matter.

While local politicians quibbled over a site for the library, Governor-elect Herrick

purchased the Old American House Hotel, site of the Oberlin-Wellington slave rescue. This site was directly next to the town hall, and in the middle of the village. Herrick's plan was to tear down the old hotel, and erect the library there. There was some controversy over this, as an editorial in the Enterprise reflects, however Herrick's plan was carried out, and soon it seemed that all were growing excited about the new library. The headline in the June 18, 1902 edition of the Enterprise read "Herrick Library: New Building is to be 35x65 Feet: Will be a Modern Structure" with a caption underneath reading, "The plans of Honorable Myron T. Herrick's gift to Wellington Show it to be a Handsome Structure- Will Cost About \$20,000- To be Built of Stone and Brick" (Enterprise [Wellington] 18 June 1902).

The plans for the library were drawn up by Archi J. Milton Dyer, of Cleveland. The Enterprise reports the plans to be very elaborate, and the building to be handsome and modern in structure. Moreover, it reports that "Mr. Herrick will beautify the grounds and make the spot one of beauty and a joy to the average citizen" (Enterprise [Wellington] 18 June 1902).

The contract for building the new library structure was going to be given to Feiket and Co., with construction to begin in August 1902 (Enterprise [Wellington] 6 August 1902). However it was the Henry J. Spieker Company of Toledo that got the contract, one of the largest firms in the United States, and the job of building the library was "pushed forward rapidly" so the structure could be enclosed before winter (Enterprise [Wellington] 13 August 1902).

Dedication services for the new library were held on Saturday, January 2, 1904. At the dedication State Librarian C.B. Galbreath presented a speech which was printed in full in the Enterprise. Galbreath's speech is eloquent as she says, in part, "It is altogether fitting that in the morning light of a new year and a new century you should open a temple of learning on the very

spot which your father dedicated to universal liberty" (Enterprise [Wellington] 2 January 1904).

The new library was a success from the start, as interest from the public was seen growing only weeks after its dedication. At the end of the week of January 23, 1904, there were 251 registered borrowers and 298 books drawn out during the week, an increase of 112 for the cooresponding week of 1903 (Enterprise [Wellington] 27 January 1904).

These increases continued steadily, encouraging trustees and citizens alike, and by March, though the novelty was wearing off, circulation statistics continued to increase. This fact is significant considering at the time there were not yet any new books purchased. In the month of February there were 1,500 books drawn, 419 more than in January, and more than twice as many as in February 1903 (Enterprise [Wellington] 2 March 1904). New books were expected to arrive the latter part of March with the hope that they would increase circulation even more.

Circulation statistics versus over-all use of a library has been an issue for a long time with libraries, and for the Herrick Memorial Library it began in 1904. The "Library Notes" column in the Enterprise in March of 1904 brought this concern to the attention of Wellington's citizens, noting that although circulation is what has been emphasized, the reading room in the new library offered what the "library proper," due to its lack of new books, couldn't offer. The Reading Room contained magazines such as The World's Work, which contained an arcticle about "Farming Under Glass" and Harper's Weekly, which contained fiction by Robert W. Chambers in the March edition (Enterprise [Wellington] 9 March 1904).

Another attraction added to the Wellington Library in 1904 was the edition of seventy-five colored plates of birds found in the area. Twenty five of the plates were put on exhibition in April, representing the birds that were currently seen in the vicinity, and the rest were to be put

out once the birds had arrived that season. The pictures attracted a good deal of attention and were especially loved by the children. Also in April, nearly sixty new books were put out for circulation, and almost that many more were being cataloged and were soon to be placed on the shelves. Moreover, more books were expected to arrive in the coming weeks (Enterprise [Wellington] 20 April 1904).

The Enterprise reports that for the month of April 1521 books were drawn (Enterprise [Wellington] 11 May 1904) and 1,114 books were checked out in the month of May (Enterprise [Wellington] 15 June 1904). At this time Ms. Lenora Laudon was librarian, and surely was kept busy with the thriving new Herrick Library. Ms. Laudon continued to work as librarian until September 1905, when Marie Palmer and Marguerite Mallory took over as librarians until sometime in 1907. From 1907 to 1936, Miss Edith Robinson served as the librarian for nearly twenty nine years, and it was during her tenure as librarian that the Herrick Library saw a very special occasion on on a cold January day in 1928.

MYRON T. HERRICK VISITS WELLINGTON

On Saturday, January 7, 1928, the village of Wellington celebrated "Herrick Day," in honor of the visit of then Ambassador to France, Myron T. Herrick. Herrick and a few friends traveled to Wellington from Cleveland that January in a "terrible" snowstorm. (Enterprise [Wellington] 5 January 1929). The largest audience in the history of Wellington packed the local Opera House to capacity on that Saturday morning. Friends and admirers from Spencer, Sullivan, Huntington, Rochester, Oberlin, Ashland, Elyria and Medina joined citizens of Wellington to welcome the honored guest. Deafening applause filled the building as Hon.

Herrick approached the stage to say a few words. Hon. Herrick was also presented with a tablet from the people of the village in honor of his generous gift of a library to the community (Enterprise [Wellington] 9 January 1928). The presentation of the plaque, which dedicates the library to Herrick's parents, just as he wanted it, can still be seen outside the front doors of the library, and reads, "This Library Was Erected By Hon. Myron T. Herrick --- Our Fellow Citizen Always Our Friend. He Dedicated It To The Memory Of His Father And Mother Timothy R. Herrick and Mary Hulbert Herrick And Presented It To The Township Of Wellington January 2, 1904: This Building Occupies The Site Of The Old American House, The Scene Of The Famous Oberlin Wellington Rescue Case September 13 1858" (Enterprise [Wellington] 9 January 1928).

A year and three months after the honored visit of Myron Merrick, the Wellington Enterprise headlines on April 11, 1929 read, "Heart attack fatal to Hon. Myron T. Herrick" (Enterprise [Wellington 11 April 1929). The Unites States. Ambassador to France died in Paris on Sunday, March 31 at 4:10 pm at the age of 75 . On Monday, April 16, services were held for Herrick at the Trinity Cathedral in Cleveland, and all of Wellington took pause at 10:30 am (during the time of the funeral services) at the Opera House to mourn the death (Enterprise [Wellington] April 1929).

HERRICK'S SECOND GIFT

"Herrick Day" was the last time Hon. Myron Herrick ever visited Wellington, passing away on that Easter Sunday morning. The grief felt in Wellington due to Herrick's death, however, soon turned to gratitude and joy , as word was received on April 23, 1929 by the library that the late ambassador had bequeathed \$70,000 for an addition and upkeep of the

library. The news was announced to all of Wellington by way of a huge headline on the front page of the Enterprise which read, "Parmely Herrick Announces Gift" (Enterprise [Wellington] 25 April 1929).

During all of the excitement of Herrick's second large gift to the library, W.J. Powell gave a gift of his own to the library: a compilation of news reels featuring Myron T. Herrick in his later years, and funeral services. The reel consisted of nearly six hundred feet of film, and featured scenes of Lindberg and Herrick in Paris, on board the ship home, in New York, and in Cleveland (Enterprise [Wellington] 12 May 1929). To be added later was film of Herrick in Wellington during the "Herrick Day" celebration day of 1902.

Also in 1929, Miss Robinson, librarian of the newly formed HML (Herrick Memorial Library) from 1907 to 1936, began a small section in the Enterprise called "In Our Library." The short lived library section always consisted of a few paragraphs updating citizens of new books and book reviews, and gifts of books and money given to the library (Enterprise [Wellington] 28 November 1929).

Tentative plans for the addition to the Herrick library were begun the week of July 29, 1929. A conference between Parmely Herrick and the library trustees the week prior resulted in many plans for the addition (Enterprise [Wellington] 29 July 1929). Requests for the addition by the late ambassador included the construction of a fire-proof room for storing personal papers of Herrick's, as well as some letters, photographs, and books. Another request of Herrick was that the basement in the new building be used as a children's room and for boy scout meetings and ladies' organizations (Enterprise [Wellington] 29 July 1929).

In late September of 1929 Parmely Herrick met with architect Mr. Warner, of the Warner and Mitchell architecture firm of Cleveland, as well as the Herrick Library trustees in Cleveland to review the site of the proposed addition (Enterprise [Wellington] 26 September 1929). It was decided at this meeting that the edition built should have a capacity of about fifty thousand volumes, and would be fire-proof.

In March of 1930 it was decided by Parmely Herrick and the architects that the addition should be enlarged from the original plan, and more money would thus be needed for the further expansion. Papers were filed in the Cuyahoga County Probate Court for additional funds and approved by Judge George S. Adams on March 22, 1930 (Enterprise [Wellington] 24 March 1930).

In June of 1930, library annex plans were formally approved by the library trustees R.L. Walden, W.B. Vischer, and E.A. VanCleaf. The plans were submitted to the trustees on June 12 by Warner and Mitchell Architects, and returned on the next Monday after a few minor changes (Enterprise [Wellington] 26 June 1930).

Construction of the Herrick Library annex began October 1, 1930, under the direction of Charles P. Green, a Cleveland general contractor. Green was awarded the job by Parmely Herrick several weeks prior to the beginning of construction. Excavating work was done by Ross and Donatello Contractors of Youngstown (Enterprise [Wellington] 2 October 1930). At this time it was suggested that a roof would be over the new annex in two months time, but the optimistic timeline stretched longer than than had been hoped. On February 17, the library had to shut down operations altogether as the construction work continued, and was re-open again on Monday, March 16 at 2pm. While it was closed, a new Kewanee heating plant was installed by

the Murphy heating plant of Oberlin (Enterprise [Wellington 16 March 1931]). When the doors opened for patrons on the 16th, the workers were finishing the new community room in the basement. Also, Miss Robinson announced that no fines would be assessed on books returned on or before Saturday, March 21. It was proposed then that the new addition would be completed by the first of May.

May first came and went, and by mid-July the annex was yet to be completed. As might be expected, delays occurred during construction, however the library was at least near completion by July. The cork floor was being laid in the lobby of the library, and linoleum laid in the side rooms and the main room. Painters were also refinishing the old furniture, and carpenters were working in the stacks built for storage on the third floor (Enterprise [Wellington] 6 July 1931).

Finally on Thursday September 17, 1931, the annex to the library was finished, save for a few minor details yet to be completed. Miss Robinson volunteered to take interested visitors through the building. Additions to the library were plentiful, and included a fireplace on the south end of the rectangular children's room, along with many of Willard's paintings and two semi-circular desks in the main auditorium of the children's room. A telechron electronic clock was hung over the door, and venetian blinds were hung in the windows. Upstairs above the children's room was a reading room, and a stack room (mostly for storage). The basement was transformed into a community hall, kitchen, rest rooms, janitor's quarters, museum, and two storage rooms (Enterprise [Wellington] 17 September 1931). Especially prized was the museum, where much historic memorabilia, including a number of civil war artifacts, were spread out for the observation of library patrons.

DEDICATION OF THE LIBRARY ADDITION

Dedication of the library annex was held Friday, August 22, 1930. The festivities were held at the Opera House, where the Rev. Dr. William E. Barton of Boston, Massachusetts and former pastor of the Wellington Congregational Church, gave a dedication speech at 1:30 that afternoon (Enterprise [Wellington] 25 August 1930). Dr. Barton, in his speech, focused partly on the land on which the HML was built, and how Wellington could take pride in the history of the plot of land held. Parts of Barton's speech were published in the Enterprise. Of the land, he said, "We should not forget that the library, the addition to which we are now dedicating, is built on the spot from which a black man was liberated at the price of jailing a number of prominent Oberlin and Wellington patriotic white men" (Enterprise [Wellington] 25 August 1930, 1). After Dr. Barton's speech, the celebration continued with ball games and contests at the school grounds (Enterprise [Wellington] 21 August 1930).

In 1935, four years after the addition and renovation of the HML, business, as they say, was "booming." The circulation total of that year reached 33,420, the figure announced on Tuesday, February 4, 1936 by Miss Robinson at the library trustee meeting (Enterprise [Wellington] 1 February 1936). Of that grand total, 22,856 books were borrowed by adults, and 10,564 were borrowed from the juvenile department making up slightly less than one third of the total. Of fiction, 17,489 volumes were withdrawn in adult material, and 7,738 volumes in children's books (Enterprise [Wellington] 7 February 1936).

Later that year on September 2, 1936, Miss Edith Robinson, who faithfully served as librarian of the HML for twenty nine years, died. She was laid to rest in the Greenwood Cemetery following services conducted by Dr. C.W. Recard, pastor of the First Congregational

Church, of which she was a member (Enterprise [Wellington] 4 September 1936). Final rites were held in her home on Forest Street, where many family members and friends gathered to pay their respects.

Catherine Callaghan was hired as librarian in October after the death of Miss Edith Robinson. It is also in this month that the trustee meeting notes pick up again. (Any notes that may have been taken within this forty-one-year gap are no longer in existence to the knowledge of anyone at the HML today.) At October's trustee meeting, Mr. E.L. Henes and Mr. K.O. Townsend attended. Decisions at the meeting included increasing the monthly book appropriation from twenty five dollars to forty dollars, the amount not including money from gift funds. The annual change of officers also took place at this meeting, with E.L. Henes as president, K.O. Townsend as secretary, and D.G. Swanger as treasurer (HML Meeting Notes October 1936, 1). Fines for October totaled \$15.81, and 3,335 volumes were circulated for the month. The daily average of circulating items in October was 191 volumes per day, and 69% of all circulating items in October was fiction.

RE-CATALOGING

The meetings continued in this general manner to the end of that decade. Ms. Callaghan served as librarian during that time, until July of 1939, with Miss Loise Park as her assistant starting in March of 1937 (HML Meeting Notes March 1937, 10). In September of 1939, Elsie Newcomer was hired as librarian, and was to take on the task of re-cataloging the entire collection while at the HML. Re-cataloging began in April of 1940 (HML Meeting Notes, March 1940, 35). In May of 1940 Miss Mildred Eikenberry was hired as a typist for the

cataloging project upon Miss Newcomer's recommendation and since she had experience typing library cards, at thirty five cents an hour (HML Meeting Notes, May 1940, 38). During the summer of 1940, Miss Newcomer did not take a summer vacation due to the re-cataloging project, and it was also during that summer (in June) that Miss Park decided to enroll in the Ohio Institute for Medical Assistants, thus resigning as library assistant. It is not known if her resignation was related to the re-cataloging task (HML Meeting Notes July 1940, 43).

Perhaps Miss Park made the right decision to resign when she did, for in January of 1942 the re-cataloging project was still underway, and it was discussed at the January trustees meeting that a cataloger hired to come in and finish the job might be a good investment (HML Meeting Notes January 1942, 1). In June of 1942 there was no cataloger in site, and the project extended through the summer (HML Meeting Notes June 1942, 15).

Other happenings in the 1940s other than the re-cataloging project, included the library investing in two war bonds, one of which was worth five thousand dollars (HML Meeting Notes October 1942, 25). Also, in February, 1943, the library was offered an original Archibald Willard painting of the Wellington Park painted in 1857, 29x 37 inches in diameter, by the Tissot family. Mr. Henes reported on the letter at the trustees meeting and would write back to the Tissot family accepting the painting for the library (HML Meeting Notes February 1943, 50).

By October 1943 the re-cataloging project proved to be too overwhelming for Miss Newcomer. The trustees authorized her to write to Miss Sandoe, State Organizer, for information on trained catalogers available and recommended salary for such services (HML Meeting Notes October 1943, 85). A month later, however, the trustees authorized Miss Newcomer to obtain a cataloger for three months (HML Meeting Notes November 1943, 87) at

any salary necessary!

In early June Miss Newcomer had reportedly secured the services of Miss Marguerite E. Seip to recatalog the rest of the library (HML Meeting Notes June 1944, 2). Miss Seip, however, never did take her position as library cataloger it seems, for her work was never mentioned in meeting notes, and September of 1944 the trustees discussed the qualifications of three retired librarians as catalogers (HML Meeting Notes September 1944, 1). A month later a woman named Miss Cochran was considered for the recataloging project for one hundred fifty dollars a month. Under the circumstances which trustee Mr. Wagner called "urgent," Miss Cochran was hired, and undertook the task (MHL Meetin Notes October 1944, 1). A mere two months later the project seemed to be well under control, with Miss Cochran having about four hundred more titles left to catalog (HLM Meeting Notes December 1944, 1). Miss Cochran reported on her task in December of 1944, and most fortunately the library kept a copy of her report. She writes that her task was to examine books on particular subjects and then make the decision of which are no longer needed, and which to keep and re-catalog (Cochran 1944, 1).

In March of 1945 the offer of library assistant was extended to Miss Frances Wiggs, niece of Mrs. Edward Robinson, a relative of Miss Edith Robinson. The position was accepted, and the library was fortunate to gain her (HML Meeting Notes, March 1945, 1). In 1945 the Herrick Memorial Library was also fortunate from the generosity of many library patrons. Gifts which ranged in the form of monetary sums, a family Bible, flower pots, a horse shoe collection, to an original Navajo blanket were just some of the items the trustees discussed keeping, or thankfully denying, on behalf of the library. Space was an important issue, as was practical use, and future value of the item. The only item specifically accepted right away was a book donated by Miss

Cochran entitled The Western Reserve and the Fugitive Slave Law (HML Meeting Notes February 1945, 1). All other gifts were "tabled" until the end of the year, including the acceptance of the original Navajo blanket offered by Mrs. Blanchard. The blanket, which was sixty two inches by ninty two inches, was of course a valuable item, and the trustees had to consider how to display it properly and ensure, by making the proper provisions, that the blanket would always stay in the library (HML Meeting Notes October 1945, 1).

In July 1945, Miss Elsie Newcomer gave her resignation to the trustees in order to accept a position as a children's librarian in Canton; however she agreed to stay on until November, so the board could find a replacement (HML Meeting Notes, August 1945, 1). A special meeting was held on Monday, August 13 to discuss the matter. At the meeting Mr. Wagner asked Miss Frances L. Wiggs to either accept the librarian position, act as librarian until a replacement could be obtained, or stay on as assistant librarian, and Miss Wiggs agreed to stay on as assistant until June 5, 1946, being paid the same amount as librarian once Miss Newcomer had gone (HML Meeting Notes August 19, 1945,1). Continuing to look for a replacement, the trustees wrote to Miss Sanoe for assistance, but only to receive word back that she was unable to find a librarian for the salary HML was willing to pay: one hundred thirty five dollars a month. So the trustees wrote Miss Sandoe a second time and asked her how much they should offer in salary in order to get a librarian to come to Wellington. Upon recieving her reply, they discussed, for two months, the options she gave them, including looking to Canada for a librarian. The trustees never did mention, at least on record, how much Miss Sandoe recommended as a reasonable salary (HML Meeting Notes December 1945, 1).

In 1946, as the HML began a new year, one of the first orders of business for the trustees

was finally accepting the Navajo blanket from Mrs. Blanchard for display in the museum (HML Meeting Notes January 1946, 1). By June of that year, Miss Wiggs had served her promised time to the library; however, a new librarian was yet to be obtained. The board was offering a salary of one hundred fifty dollars a month for the position. A month later an application for librarian was recieved from Miss Mary Krickbaum, (HML Meeting Notes July 1946, 1) and was accepted by the board, and probably with a sense of relief!

FINDING A HEAD LIBRARIAN

After Elsie Newcomer's six years of service, the HML experienced a high turnover rate with librarians for some time. Frances Wiggs, who was understandably temporary, served from November 1945 to August 1946. Mary Krickbaum served a little over a year, from August 1946 to November 1947. In August of 1947 Miss Krickbaum wished to leave and find another position, and the board told her she could leave whenever she wished. Thus, in November Miss Krickbaum took on a new position (at the Army Medical Library in Cleveland), and left Miss Jane Swanger as acting librarian, formerly an assistant (HML Meeting Notes November 1947,1) until February 1948 when Mrs. Lois Markey, from Beverly Massachusettes arrvied on January 15 to fill the position (HML Meeting Notes January 1948, 1). Fortunately, Miss Markey stayed on for several years.

Also, in January of 1948, the first complaint of "inappropriate" material was recorded, concerning the book entitled Clarkton, by Howard Fast. The book was limited to adult circulation, however the restriction did not seem to make a difference to a few outspoken library users. Mr Henes reported to the board that he had been contacted by several patrons with

complains (HML Meeting Notes January 1948, 1). The board therefore decided to remedy the problem by destroying the book!

Miss Markey, soon after she took over as librarian at HML, began a column in the Enterprise titled "Library Notes" (Enterprise [Wellington] 25 March 1948). Library columns such as this were written by many other librarians, and continue even today. Mrs. Delargey, who was hired for one year beginning August 15, 1951, took over the column after Miss Markey. Mrs. Delargey proved to be a very active librarian for Herrick Memorial, starting a number of programs and other ways to assist library patrons. For example, on January 17, 1952, a new service for patrons called "Reader's Review," began, which featured book reviews by patrons, for patrons, in the Enterprise (Enterprise [Wellington] 17 January 1952). Mrs. Delargey was also very active in enabling the library to sponsor classes in poetry and art. In fact, a number of art events were sponsored in 1952, including an art show in April, where adults who participated in an amateur class, held at the library, displayed their work to the public (Enterprise [Wellington] 10 April 1952). The program was a great success, and in June similar classes were sponsored for children in the fourth to twelfth grades.

Another valuable deed Mrs. Delargey did while librarian was the creation of a fact sheet about the library, originally intended for a Kiwanis Club meeting on May 1, 1952. Insightful facts revealed in this document include: In spite of television, 309 more books were borrowed from the library in February 1952 than February 1951; interlibrary loans were offered to patrons in 1952; of the twenty best selling books the week of May 1, the library owned sixteen, and owned eighteen of the twenty best selling non-fiction titles; and, Wellington read eight thousand more library books in 1951 than a west coast town of comparable size (DeLargey, 1952).

In August, 1952, the trustees accepted the resignation of Mrs. Delargey, though before she took her leave the board asked her to write to various library schools for a replacement. Mrs. Delargey sent out letters to Kent State University, Case Western Reserve University, University of Illinois, Columbia University, University of Michigan, and the University of Chicago. She also advertised the position in Library Journal and American Library Association Bulletin. Moreover, though Mrs. Delargey was leaving that summer, she got the consent of the trustees to have a library exhibit at the fair (HML Meeting Notes August 1952, 1).

It was probably difficult to replace the energy of Mrs. Delargey. In January, 1953 Miss Clara Stuart, from Franklin, Pennsylvania, began as HML's new librarian, only to submit her resignation six months later (HML Meeting Notes June 1953, 1). Mrs. Stuart left in August, and was replaced by Martha Morse in the fall of 1953, with Mrs. Marion Oney as assistant, and Mrs. Elizabeth Thoms as children's librarian at that time (HML Meeting Notes October 1953, 1). Mrs. Morse stayed on as librarian from November 1953 to the latter part of 1967, and during her fourteen years as librarian encountered perhaps more threatening circumstances to the HML than any librarian there since it was founded in 1902.

TRYING TIMES

Renovations of the library began in September 1961, and included putting down new flooring. Work on the tranformation lasted until April of 1962, and discouraged many patrons from using the facilities. As a result, circulation dropped by 3,660 books from 1961, the first circulation loss in eight years. Possibly as an attempt to regain patrons and better circulation statistics, the "Great Books Club" was started in September 1962. This was not an "academic"

group, as there was no age limit or educational requirements. The group was lead by Mr. and Mrs. William T. Whittington (Enterprise [Wellington] 13 September 1962).

Not long after Mrs. Morse faced the loss of library users, another, more severe, detriment was hanging in the balance. She describes the situation best in a memo to library patrons in August 1963. Mrs. Morse states, "Like a bolt from the blue, word was recieved last Saturday, August, 3 from the attorney for the Ohio Library Trustees Association, Mr. Norton Webster, that the Governor plans to abolish the State Library without delay, in the interest of economy" (Morse 6 August 1963). Mrs. Morse was outspoken in her deep concern for the consequences the loss of our state library would bring to Wellington's rural library, and wrote a poignant letter to Governor James Rhodes, expressing her concerns (Morse 8 August 1963). Perhaps it was, in part, through the pleading of librarians like Mrs. Morse that our State Library was never shut down after all.

After many years of service to the Herrick Memorial Library, Mrs. Morse reported to the board in January 1967 that she planned to retire in the summer (HML Meeting Notes, January 1967, 1). An add was placed in Library Journal, and the board looked to Case Western Reserve University's library school for a possible candidate. It didn't take long for the trustees to find a new librarian, however, as Mrs. Hollis Grissinger was hired on in April of 1967 (HML Meeting Notes April 1967, 1).

In 1972, another renovation of the library was underway, this time to the outside of the building where patrons were not as hampered in using the facilities, as was the case in 1962. Around the latter part of 1971, Mr Kenneth Avery, former Wellington resident and a landscape designer for a metropolitan park system, offered his services, free of charge, to his home town.

In October of 1972 the first phase of the relandscaping project was begun, removing overgrown vegetation and replacing it with dogwood trees, and later adding benches and a low brick wall (Enterprise [Wellington] October 1972).

Arriving to a newly decorated building, inside and out, was Ms. Patricia Lindley in December 1973, after the retirement of Mrs. Hollis Grissinger. Ms. Lindley has served as the director of the HML for nearly twenty five years, and has played a very active role in several major changes to the library, including a large renovation and expansion project in 1985. The project included an approximately 825 square foot addition to the existing library building, and much renovation of the rest of the building (Lindley 1985). The whole project began with the proposal of a bond issue in 1984. The library, in need of expansion, announced in June, 1984 that a six hundred fifty thousand dollar bond issue was to be placed on the November ballot for renovations to the eighty-year-old library building to better accomodate collection growth, and make the structure wheelchair accessible (Enterprise [Wellington] 28 June 1984). On November 6, the library levy passed easily, with sixty percent of the village and township casting favorable votes for a final count of 1,143 to 737 (Enterprise [Wellington] 8 November 1984).

By July 1986, the expansion and renovation was taking shape as the new children's room opened up on the main floor of the library (Enterprise [Wellington] 24 July 1986). A few months later, on Sunday September 14, an open house was held in celebration of the completion of the "new" library, which took a total of nearly three years to complete, as planning originally began early in 1984 (Enterprise [Wellington] 4 September 1986).

THE HERRICK MEMORIAL LIBRARY TODAY

The beginning of the next decade marked the next significant change for the library. On June 11, 1990 the library board acted on its decision to finally do away with the traditional card catalog, and contract with Gaylor for their Galaxy integrated system, and for the tedious task of shelflist conversion (Lindley, 1990). The grand total of the conversion was calculated at over fifty thousand dollars (Gaylor 1990, 2).

According to information gained through informal conversations, HML, at the time of the catalog conversion, had looked into grants to libraries for help in funding the endeavor. However the time delay and red tape involved with the grants, combined with the fair price offered by Gaylor, encouraged the library to go ahead with the conversion, utilizing a several county cooperative to automate collectively and keep costs down.

Today, a current issue for the Herrick Memorial Library concerns online access policies, where fliers at the counter, and procedures for using the online computers quickly cue patrons in on restrictions. Internet access at HML is available to any library card holder whose card is in good standing. The user must "sign in" before each use of the computer, which signifies that you agree to abide by the library's access policies, which include the rule that no more than two people may be on the computer at one time. Also, the access policy reads that the computers are "...not for unauthorized, illegal, or unethical purposes" ("Using the Internet" 1998, 1). The access policy at HML also provides a disclaimer, making the library and OPLIN, through which internet access is provided, not responsible for "...any claims, losses, damages, obligations, or liabilities....relating to the use of the electronic databases, OPLIN or the internet" ("Using the Internet" 1998, 1).

Other services offered by HML today include interlibrary loan, telephone reference, children's services and programs, special services to teachers, and homebound delivery services. HML also has a wide variety of items in its collection for circulation and/ or use at the library, including books, over one hundred magazine subscriptions, compact disks, cassettes, vidoes, geneology and local history collection, toys and puzzles, art prints, microfilm reader- printer, and a photocopier ("Welcome to HML" 1998).

The Herrick Memorial Library is a great aset to the citizens of the Village of Wellington, the township, and surrounding areas. It has clearly served as a cornerstone of the community since its dedication in 1904, and played an important role even years before Herrick's generous gift. With its expansion and several renovations, along with its technological advances and dedication to hiring professional librarians, the HML should expect to see another century of growth and prosperity.

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